Office of the Ministry of External Affairs housed in rented buildings

1141. SHRI RAM PUJAN PATEL: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the various offices of her Ministry/Subordinate Offices/attached offices/Departments are housed in the rented buildings in Delhi and outside Delhi; if so, since when;

(b) the name of each office and the monthly rent of each building occupied by these offices along with the date of occupation;

(c) whether it is a fact that this Ministry propose to shift these offices from rented buildings to Government buildings; and

(d) if the answer to part (c) above be in the affirmative what steps have been taken so far to shift these offices from rented buildings to Government buildings in order to lessen the burden on the exchequer?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI A. A. RAHIM): (a) to (d) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House as soon as possible.

Anti-India tirade in Bangladesh Press

1142. SHRI NARENDRA SINGH: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the anti-India tirade in Bangladesh press following army action in Punjab and the riots in Bhiwandi and Bombay;

(b) if so, what specific accusations were levelled against the Government of India in Bangladesh Press; and

(c) what is Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI A. A. RAHIM): (a) and (b) Certain sections of the Bangladesh Press have written about events in Punjab and Bhiwandi in an exaggerated and tendentious manner. Inflated figures of casualties and wild allegations of oppression and victimisation of minorities in India have been made by these newspapers. Other sections of the Bangladesh press have, however, been more balanced and factual in their reporting on events in Punjab.

(c) Our Mission in Dhaka has taken up this matter with the Government of Bangladesh, and has also taken necessary steps to project the correct picture to all sections of the Bangladesh media.

Visit of U.S. Vice-President to India

1143. SHRI NARENDRA SINGH: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether during the visit of the U.S. Vice-President in May, 1984 India's relations with Pakistan, Bangladesh, Nepal and Sri Lanka were reviewed in the context of supplies of U.S. arms to Pakistan and other neighbouring countries of India; and

(b) if so what specic issues were discussed in this context and what was the outcome thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI A. A. RAHIM): (a) and (b) The situation in and around the Indian subcontinent particularly in the context of US policies towards the region was indeed discussed in the course of talks with the Vice President of the USA in May this year. Government's concern about the supply of sophisticated U.S. weapons to Pakistan was reiterated. It is hoped that as a result of these discussions the U.S. Government have a better understanding of the Government's views and concerns.